



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

M. JODI RELL  
GOVERNOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Governor Rell Urges Motorists to *Stay Home*  
as State Deals with First Major Storm of the Year  
*Bradley International Airport to Close at 6:30 p.m.***

Governor M. Jodi Rell, speaking from the state's Emergency Operations Center, today urged residents to stay home and stay off the roads as the state copes with the first major winter storm of the year. The Governor said high winds added to heavy snowfalls – in some areas expected to peak at 3 inches to 4 inches an hour – are likely to create blizzard conditions and make roads and highways impassable. A total of 14 inches to 26 inches is expected to fall before the storm ends Sunday afternoon.

Connecticut transit buses will stop running and train schedules will be sharply curtailed after 8 p.m., Governor Rell warned. Bradley International Airport is currently open, but many flights are canceled or delayed and the airport will officially close at 6:30 p.m., the Governor said.

"I'm monitoring the storm from the Emergency Operations Center at the State Armory in Hartford," the Governor said. "I strongly urge people to stay home and off the roads. This will be a very long storm. Conditions will deteriorate before they get better and the best thing to do is simply wait it out. Please just stay put. The very best thing you can do right now is stay off the roads."

All of the state's snow plow crews are now at work, along with additional contractors. The period between 7 p.m. and 1 a.m. will mark the heaviest snowfalls. The snow so far has been relatively powdery, but blowing winds will cause drifts and serious visibility problems.

Governor Rell said state officials are also monitoring the risk of flooding in coastal communities, especially in the western portion of the state.

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The Governor said she appreciates the fans' dedication to the University of Connecticut Huskies, who play Pittsburgh at Gampel Arena at 9 p.m., but urged fans who must travel to attend the game to donate their tickets to student who live on campus. There is a toll-free number (877-AT-UCONN) that fans can use to donate their tickets.

“Unless you’ve got Huskies to help you get to the Huskies tonight, please donate your tickets,” the Governor said. “The students will probably never get such good seats again.”